

# Mr. P R Y N N E S

Demand of his Liberty to the G E N E R A L L, Decemb. 26, 1648. with  
his Answer thereto; and his Declaration and Protestation thereupon:

For the Honourable Lord Fairfax, Generall of the present Army.



Hese are to acquaint your Lordship; That I being a Member of the Commons House of Parliament, a Freeman of ENGLAND a great sufferer for, and an assertor of the Subjects Liberties against all Regall and Prelaticall Tyranny, and no way Subject to your owne, your Councell of Warres, or Officers Military power or jurisdiction, going to the House to discharge my duty on the sixt of this instant December, was on the staires next the Commons House doore, forcibly kept back from entring the House, seized on, and carried away thence, (without any pretext of Lawfull Authoritie or cause assigned) by Col. PRIDE and other Officers and Souldiers of the Armie under your Command. And notwithstanding the Houses demand of my enlargement both by their Serjeant and otherwise, ever since unjustly detained under your Marshalls Custodie, and tossed from place to place, contrarie to the known Priviledges of Parliament, the libertie of the Subject, and fundamentall lawes of the land, which you are engaged to maintain against all violation. And therefore do hereby demand from Your Lordship my present enlargement, and just libertie, with Your Answer hereunto.

From the Kings head in the Strand, December 26 1648.

WILLIAM PRYNNE;

This was delivered to the Generalls owne hands at his House in Queenestreet, about three of the clock, the same day it beares date; by Doctor Bastwicke, who returned this answer by him, upon the reading thereof: That he knew not but Mr. PRYNNE was already released, and that Hee would send to his Officers to know what they had against him. Who it seemes act all things without his privity, and steer all the Armies present Counsells and Designes, according to their absolute wills.

The Publick Declaration, and Protestation of William Prynne of Lincolnes Inne Esquire, against his present Restraint: and the present destructive Councells, and Jesuitical Proceedings, of the Generall, Officers and ARMY.

I William Prynne, a Member of the House of Commons and Freeman of England; who have formerly suffered 8. yeares imprisonment (four of them close, three in exile) three pillories, the losse of my Eares, Calling, Estate, for the vindicating of the Subjects just Rights and Liberties against the arbitrary Tyranny and Injustice of King and Prelates, and defence of the Protestant Religion here established; spent most of my strength and studies in asserting the Peoples iust Freedome, and the Power and Priviledges of Parliament, against all Opposers, and never received one farthing (by way of damages, gift, or recompence) or the smallest benefit or preferment whatsoever, for all my sufferings, and publike services, Doe here solemnly declare, before the most just and righteous God of Heaven and Earth, (the searcher of all hearts) the whole Kingdome, English Nation, and the World, that having according to the best of my skil and judgment, faithfully discharged my trust and duty in the Commons House, upon reall grounds of Religion, Conscience, Justice, Law, Prudence and right reason, for the speedy and effectuell settlement of the Peace and safety of our three distressed, bleeding dying Kingdoms, on Monday, the 4th. of December, I was on Wednesday morning following (the sixt of this instant) going to the House to discharge my duty, on the Parliament staires next the Commons doore, forcibly seized upon by Col. Pride, Sir Hardresse Wauer, and other Officers of the Army (who had then beset the house with strong Guards and whole Regiments of Horse and Foot) haled violently thence into the Queens Court, notwithstanding my Protestation of breach of Priviledge, both as a Member and a Freeman, by a mere usurped tyrannicall power, without any lawfull Authority, or cause assigned; and there forcibly detained Prisoner (with other Members there restrained by them) notwithstanding the Houses double demand of my present enlargement to attend its service, by the Sergeant, and that night [contrary to faith and promise] carried prisoner to Hell, and there shut up all night, (with 40 other Members) without any lodging or other accommodations, contrary to the known Priviledges of Parliament, the fundamentall Lawes of the Realme, and Liberty of the Subject; which both Houses, the three Kingdoms, the Generall with all Officers and Souldiers of the Army, are by solemn Covenant and duty obliged inviolably to maintaine. Since which I have, without any Lawfull Power or Authority, been removed and kept prisoner in severall places, put to great expences, debarred the liberty of my person, calling; and denyed that Hereditary Freedome, which being to me of right, both as an Freeman, a Member, an eminent sufferer for the publike, and a Christian, by these who have not the least shaddow of Authority or Justice to restraints me, and never yet objected the least cause of this my unjust restraint:

I do therefore hereby publicly protest against all these their proceedings, as the highest usurpation of an Arbitrary and tyrannicall Power, the greatest breach of Faith, Trust, Covenant, Priviledges of Parliament, and most dangerous encroachment on the Subjects Liberties, and Lawes of the land, ever practised in this Kingdome by any King or Tyrant, especially by pretended Saints, who hold forth nothing but Justice, Righteousnesse, Liberty of Conscience, and publike freedome in all their Remonstrance; whiles they are triumphantly trampling them all under their armed Iron feet. And do further hereby appeal to, & summon them, before all the Tribunalls & Powers in Heaven and Earth for exemplary Justice against them, who cry out so much for it against others, lesse Tyrannicall, Oppressive, unjust, and sedisragus to God and men, then themselves: And doe moreover Remonstrate; that all their present exorbitant Actings against the King, Parliament, present Government, & their New-modled Representative, are nothing else but the designs and projects of Jesuits, Popish Priests, & Recusant, [who beare chiefe sway in their Councels] to destroy and subvert our Religion, Lawes, liberties, Government, Maiestyracy, Ministry, the present and all future Parliaments, the King, his Posterity, and our three Kingdoms, the Generall, yee Officers, and Army themselves, and that with speedy and inevitable certainty; to betray them all to our serraigne Popish Enemies; and give a just occasion to the Prince and Duke, now in the papists power, to alter their Religion, & engage them, and all serraigne Princes and Estates to exert all their power to suppress and extirpate the Protestant Religion and Possessors of it through all the world, which these unchristian, scandalous, treacherous, Rebellious, Tyrannicall, Jesuiticall, disloyal, bloody present Counsels and Exorbitances of this Army of Saints, so much pretending to Piety and Justice have so deeply wounded, scandalised, and rendred detestable to all pious, carnall and morall men of all conditions. All which I am, and shall alwayes be ready to make good before God, Angels, Men, and our whole three Kingdoms in a free and full Parliament, upon all just occasions; and seal the truth of it with the last drop of my dearest blood. Inwitness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my Name: at the signe of the Kings head in the STRAND: Decemb. 26. 1648.

WILLIAM PRYNNE.